



KNUTE K. ROCKNE whose Notre Dame teams won the championship in 1924, 1929 and 1930.



WALLACE WADE whose Alabama team won the championship in 1925.



W. A. INGRAM whose Navy team won the championship in 1926.



W. A. ALEXANDER whose Georgia Tech team won the championship in

RANKING THE CHAMPIONS

by WM. F. BOAND

T is well to remember that in any discussion of national collegiate football championships we must enter into the realm of pure conjecture. "Mythical National Championship" is the term that is generally used.

If the task of naming the National Championship Football Team If the task of naming the National Championship Football Team for 1937 were unloaded upon your shoulders, you would soon find it necessary to develop some definite method of ranking. Your system of comparison might be so simple that you could carry all the rules in your head, or it might become so involved that you would have to jot down your rules and regulations in order to keep them straight. But before you start any football rating system, you would have to consider this question: Should the National Championship be awarded to the best team of the year, or to the team with the best record for the year?

One might think that the best team of any year would invariably have the best record, but a little thought may convince one that such is not always the case. For example, the best team for 1937 may be one that has an unimpressive schedule. Such a team may win every game on its schedule this fall, and still not be very good. Consequently, we have two general types of football rating systems—"Best Team" Systems and "Best Record" Systems.

Before we proceed any further, it is time to state clearly that no football rating system is perfectly adapted to rank teams infallibly.
The AZZI RATEM System is strictly a "Best Record" System.

Briefly, the AZZI RATEM System gives each team a point rating for each game played. An average rating is then found for each team. The football team that has the highest average for the entire season's play is ranked Number One.

N dealing with a best record system, one highly controversial question arises: Should post-season games, including the various Bowl games of January 1st or 2nd, be counted as part of the preceding season or should such post-season encounters be entirely ignored?

The point is this: Such post-season contests are usually arranged between outstanding squads. If counted, the victor almost invariably receives a very high rating for the game. The inclusion of this high rating victory raises the average rating of the winner. Raising the winner's season's average often raises its final ranking.

Sometimes, such a circumstance may even prove to be a deciding factor in the awarding of a National Championship. The 1936 season offers a double barrel illustration of this point. Prior to the Rose Bowl and Sugar Bowl games of January 1, 1937, the four top teams, per AZZI RATEM, were very closely grouped, and the ranking was in this order:

- 1. Louisiana State
- 2. Minnesota
- 3. Pittsburgh and Washington U.

The Louisiana State Tigers lost in the Sugar Bowl, and received a lower game rating for the defeat than their previous average. When this defeat was included in the season's average of Louisiana State, the Tigers dropped below Minnesota.

On the reverse side of the picture, the Pittsburgh Panthers outclassed the Washington Huskies and received a very high rating for the triumph. When this game rating was counted as part of the 1936 record of Pittsburgh, Jock Sutherland's team climbed above Bernie Bierman's Gophers.

While freely admitting that the arguments for and against the use of post-season games in rating computations seem to be equally potent, the AZZI RATEM System does count all post-season encounters.

The results of post-season games have changed the AZZI RATEM National Championship verdict three times in the past thirteen years. In 1925, the Alabama eleven needed a higher average rating and gained it by scoring a high rating victory over Washington University in the Rose Bowl. The 1928 version of the Ramblin' Wrecks of Georgia Tech used a Rose Bowl victory over California to out-rate other close contenders. The 1936 example has already been cited.

On three occasions regular season National Champions have played in the Rose Bowl and won. Notre Dame finished the 1924 season far out in front and, on the following New Year's Day trimmed Stanford for good

Late fall of 1931 found Southern California with top rating and the Trojans verified the verdict by turning back Bernie Bierman's Green Wave of Tulane.

In 1932, Southern California's pre-bowl rating was highest with Michigan and Pittsburgh virtually tied for second. The Trojans swamped the Panthers in the Rose Bowl January 1, 1933. This moved Southern California still farther out in front and lowered Pittsburgh's rating. The Panthers dropped below the Michigan Wolverines.

The following page carries a list of the twelve top teams of each year since 1924 as ranked by the AZZI RATEM System.



HOWARD JONES whose Southern California teams won the championship in 1931 and 1932.



HARRY KIPKE Whose Michigan team won the championship in 1933.



BERNIE BIERMAN Minnesota teams won the chompionship in 1934 and 1935.



JOHN B. SUTHERLAND whose Pittsburgh team won the championship in 1936.

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A REVIEW OF NATIONAL

PAST 13 YEARS Including the Twelve T		
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1 ALABAMA	WILLIAM F. BOAND	1933
3 Pittsburgh 78.4 3 Pittsburgh 77.8 4 Dartmouth 776.7 5 Washington U. 76.7 6 Notre Dame 76.0 7 Missouri 75.2 8 Stanford 74.0 9 Texas A and M. 73.9 10 West Virginia 73.8 11 So. California 73.6 12 Colgate 73.0	Originator of AZZI RATEM System The final revision of the AZZI RATEM System was completed in the spring of 1936. This revision was used to re-rate previous years. Teams are rated on a basis of 100 for perfect.	1 MICHIGAN 81.4 2 So. California 30.6 3 Princeton 79.6 4 Louisiana St 77.3 5 Pittsburgh 77.2 6 Nebraska 76.4 7 Centenary 75.1 8 Oregon U 75.0 9 Columbia 74.9 10 Ohio State 74.3 11 Minnesota 73.6 12 Army 72.8
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1 NAVY 80.8 2 Michigan 80.4 3 Notre Dame 80.3 4 Alabama 78.9 5 Stanford 77.8 6 Northwestern 74.4 7 So. California 74.3 8 So. Methodist 74.0 9 Haskell 73.9 10 Ohio State 73.6 11 Vanderbilt 73.1 12 Lafayette 73.0	1 NOTRE DAME 81.0 2 So. California 79.9 3 Pittsburgh 79.0 4 Purdue 78.5 5 California 77.1 6 Fordham 75.5 7 Stanford 74.5 8 Illinois 74.1 9 St. Mary's 73.3 10 Tulane 72.2 21 Texas Christian 71.6 12 Tennessee 71.6	1934 1 MINNESOTA 82.8 2 Pittsburgh 79.4 3 Alabama 79.2 4 Navy 78.7 5 Ohio State 77.7 6 Stanford 77.6 7 Rice 77.5 8 Columbia 75.5 9 Tulane 74.4 10 Colgate 74.3 11 Texas 74.1 12 Temple 73.1
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LARRY EIPEE Michigan team wan mpionship in 1833.

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